

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Large media companies argue that maintaining the cable ownership cap and the broadcast/newspaper cross-ownership rule infringes upon their free speech. That logic is specious and deceptive. These companies have proven that they are quite effective at getting their messages across.

Maintaining these limits is well within the public interest. Weakening or eliminating them will reduce the number of viewpoints available to the people. Once we start down that road, it will not be long until we find ourselves in a country run by large corporations -- and we are dangerously close to that now.

The public interest is best served by maintaining a diversity of viewpoints in the media marketplace. Please make sure that the marketplace is not limited to only a few major players.